THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) A Committee under the the Chairmanship of Dr. G. Sanjeeva Reddy has been constituted to study the prospects of establishing a Workers' Technical University which could help address the gap between demand and supply of technically qualified personnel.

Programme to boost primary education

1388. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have evolved any official programme to boost primary education in the remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Mid-day Meal (MDM) programmes are being implemented by the Central Government in partnership with the States to promote primary education in all parts of the country. The SSA is a comprehensive programme to address universal access, retention and quality of lerarning of children in the 6-14 years age group. The MDM provides for cooked midday meals to children in schools, EGS & AIE centres at the primary level.

Children under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1389. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where children are getting elementrary education under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan successfully;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scheme has not been implemented effectively in the State of Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure the elementary education to all the childern of Himachal Pradesh under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented in all the States and Union Territories of India in a partnership between the Central and State Governments. In Himachal Pradesh, the SSA is being implemented in all districts and the State's elementary education indicators are showing steady progress. An annual work plan of Rs. 12117.78 lakh has been approved for SSA implementation in Himachal Pradesh for 2006-07.

Applications pending with AICTE from Kerala

1390. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of applications pending with AICTE for approval from the State of Kerala;

(b) the reasons for delay in each case; and

(c) the action taken to clear the applications without delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) According to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), 13 applications were received for setting up of new degree level technical institutions in the State of Kerala. All the applications were processed as per AICTE norms. In seven cases, Letters of Intent (LOIs) have been issued. In remaining 6 cases, deficiencies were communicated to the institutions, out of which in one case, copy of application after compliance of deficiencies have been sent to the State Government and the affiliating University for their comments.

Promotion of education for SC girls

1391. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey for promotion of education among Scheduled Caste girls during 2005-06;